

chapters and deals with general considerations of the urine as a secretion, its physical properties, etc.; Part II. is devoted to the "Chemical Examination of the Urine;" Part III. to the "Microscopic Examination;" and Part IV. to the "Diagnosis of Urinary diseases." Although Part IV. contains valuable information, still the subject is treated in rather a didactic manner.

The book is attractively bound in soft leather, well printed, and well illustrated.

W. T. L.

ERRORS OF REFRACTION AND THEIR TREATMENT: A CLINICAL POCKET-BOOK FOR PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS. By CHARLES BLAIR, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Surgeon to the Western Ophthalmic Hospital, London; Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Royal Hospital, Richmond. Bristol: John Wright & Co. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Ltd., 1905.

THE subject is necessarily compressed in this pocket-book of a hundred pages. We doubt if it will be of much use "to some who are not able to give much time to this relatively uninteresting subject," as the author hopes. It may find a place in the hands of students who are under instruction, and thus prepared to comprehend a syllabus, for it is little more, of the subject of refraction and accommodation and their anomalies.

The explanations and practical directions are in the main in accordance with present-day conceptions. We note, however, some adhesion to older methods which have been improved upon; for example, the shadow test is described with a concave mirror, and nothing is said about the superiority of the plane mirror with the light not over the patient's head but close to the observer. The author also is a firm believer in the necessity of making some considerable deduction in ordering convex lenses for hypermetropia from what he considers the full correction, to allow for "a certain natural tonic contraction of the ciliary muscle, which is always present except when a mydriatic has been used." In an example given in this connection where +4 was found by the shadow test, and confirmed subjectively, it is recommended that +3 be ordered. We do not believe that such a contraction exists except in exceptional cases. The difficulty here is that the so-called full correction is not the true correction; that is, the lens given by the subjective tests adapts the eye for the distance at which the patient is placed from the test card, rendering him myopic to that extent if convex lenses are used, or leaving a slight degree of myopia if the lenses be concave. In either case the proper allowance for the range is necessary to adapt the eye for infinity. We

are convinced that the neglect of taking this fact into consideration is responsible for the belief in the constant existence of a tonic contraction of the ciliary muscle. Such contraction is occasionally, but comparatively rarely met with as a spasm of accommodation.

In the correction of presbyopia the author gives proper weight to the fact that not all of the accommodative power can be employed for continuous near work, but that one-third must be kept in reserve. He also well observes that the patient's age "should guide but not determine" the strength of glass to be prescribed.

The style of this little book is very clear, making its perusal easy and agreeable.

T. B. S.

KLINIK DER VERDAUUNGSKRANKHEITEN. By DR. C. A. EWALD.
Volume III. Diseases of the Intestine and Peritoneum. With
75 illustrations. Berlin: August Hirschwald.

THIS excellent little book consists of a series of lectures upon the diseases of the intestines. After a careful description of the methods of investigation, including that most difficult and unsatisfactory branch of laboratory diagnosis, the examination of the feces, Ewald discusses nutrition, particularly its effect upon the activity of the intestines, and, as a natural sequel to this, the treatment of constipation. In this he depends more upon a general hygienic and dietetic treatment than upon either the physical or drug methods. The following lectures are devoted to inflammation and ulceration of the intestinal tract, including appendicitis, to the discussion of which he devotes a very considerable amount of space. In accordance with the rather prevailing German sentiment on this subject, Ewald is conservative regarding operation. He believes that it is indicated only in four conditions: First, if there is perforation with general peritonitis, when it should be done as soon as possible; second, when there is definite evidence of an accumulation of pus, and the course is progressive; third, when there are frequent relapses; and, fourth, when there is chronic appendicular colic, and the larval form of appendicitis with indefinite symptoms. Of course, the opinion of American surgeons would strongly oppose the restriction of the operation to these few conditions.

The lecture upon tumors of the intestinal tract is rather more summary in character than the importance of this subject demands. The differential diagnosis is treated in an entirely inadequate manner. The same may be said of the diagnosis and treatment of intestinal obstruction. For the latter condition he considers opium the most valuable internal medicament.

The final chapters deal with diseases of the rectum, the nervous